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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,497	01/14/2002	Christian Suro	HES 2001-IP-004498	9952

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EXAMINER

WALKER, ZAKIYA NICOLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,497

Applicant(s)

SURO, CHRISTIAN

Examiner

Zakiya N. Walker

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 29, 32 and 35 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 22-28, 30, 31, 33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 8-18, 22-28, 30, 31, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laky.

Laky discloses a system for handling tubing that includes an apparatus for disconnecting tubing. With respect to the apparatus claims, the system comprises: means for holding tubing at a 1st and 2nd location (first device 127, 127a, second device 126, 126a), and means for shearing the tubing 25; means for moving tubing sections away from each other (actuator 26); means for isolating tubing sections (isolator device 23); means for releasing pressurized fluids 24; means for releasing a first tubing section 96; means for shearing tubing at a plurality of locations (shearing means/device 25 is not limited to cutting only one portion of the tubing); means for crimping 116; and a means for floating (floating device 73). With respect to the method claims, the operation comprises: holding the tubing at first and second locations; shearing the tubing at one or more locations; moving the sections away; isolating the sections; releasing pressurized fluids; releasing the first tubing section; and floating an end of the first section.

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3. Claims 1-6, 9-14, 17, 18, 22-24, 27, 28, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gleditsch.

Gleditsch discloses a deep water system that includes a method/system of disconnecting tubing. With respect to the apparatus claims, the system comprises: means for holding tubing at a 1st and 2nd location (first device 6, 7, second device 19), and means for shearing the tubing 5, 17; means for moving tubing sections away from each other (actuator 2); means for isolating tubing sections (isolator device 4, 15); means for releasing pressurized fluids 13; means for releasing a first tubing section 6, 7; and means for shearing tubing at a plurality of locations (17, 5). With respect to the method claims, the operation comprises: holding the tubing at first and second locations; shearing the tubing at one or more locations; moving the sections away; isolating the sections; releasing pressurized fluids; releasing the first tubing section, and shearing the tubing at a plurality of locations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7, 15, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleditsch in view of Laky.

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Gleditsch discloses a deep water system as stated above. However, the reference fails to teach a crimping means as called for in the claimed combination or method.

Laky teaches a system for handling tubing that includes a shearing means 25 with a crimping means 116 for the purpose of crimping the cut tubing sections to prevent fluid leakage.

It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the shearing means of Gleditsch with crimping means in view of Laky in order to close the ends of the cut tubing sections.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 29, 32, and 35 are allowed.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Headworth teaches a system with coiled tubing having a cutter.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya N. Walker whose telephone number is (703) 305-0302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30 AM-5 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3597 for regular communications and (703) 746-3826 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



Zakiya N. Walker
Examiner
Art Unit 3672

ZW
March 20, 2003